

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 214286

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ORIGIN ACDA-19

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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S E C R E T STATE 214286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PRESS STATEMENTS

REFS: A. VIENNA 8581 B. VIENNA 8948 C. VIENNA 8870

1. WE SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID BEGINNING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON NOTE OF CONFRONTATION OR POLEMICS. AS IN OPENING STATEMENT, WE SHOULD AVOID REFERENCE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT MBFR IS A TEST OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND GOOD WILL. YOU ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO DELETE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH FROM DELEGATION'S PRESS BACKGROUNDER (REF A) AND TO AVOID THIS LINE IN FUTURE STATEMENTS WHICH DELEGATION MIGHT MAKE.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 214286

STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT IN PARA 3A OF DELEGATION'S PAPER

ON BREZHNEV SPEECH (REF B) SHOULD ALSO BE DELETED. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO AMEND PARA 8C IN QUARLES PRESS STATEMENT (REF C) ACCORDINGLY.

2. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED DELEGATION'S PAPER ON BREZHNEV SPEECH. WHILE PAPER IS USEFUL FOR PRIVATE ALLIED CONSIDERATION, THE SUGGESTED PRESS RESPONSES CONTAINED IN PAPER SHOULD NOT BE USED WITH PRESS. WE DO NOT THINK WEST SHOULD RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY IN PUBLIC TO SOVIET STATEMENTS AND YOU SHOULD CONFINE PRESS BACKGROUNDER TO DISCRPTION OF ALLIED POSITIONS AS REFLECTED IN OPENING STATEMENTS. INITIAL PRESS BACKGROUNDER SHOULD NOT IN OUR VIEW BE VEHICLE TO OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE WITH SOVIETS ON SUBSTANCE

OF NEGOTIATIONS. INSTEAD, VIENNA SPOKESMAN SHOULD SAY THAT BREZHNEV SPEECH AS WELL AS SOVIET OPENING STATEMENT IS UNDER STUDY BY THE WEST BUT THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT. KISSINGER

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